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Liz Leavitt

Nov 10, 2014



I also polled my friends and family about internet trends and got a variety of answers. Some were expected, some touched on a common theme, though not necessarily a folklore trend, and some were things I'd not even heard of/thought about:

Megan: "Oh man. Anything to do with Robin Williams would be my guess. Or the Ice Bucket Challenge."

My friend, Erin, also mentioned celebrity deaths:

"Maybe Paul Walker's death or robin Williams. Those were both big. Fast and Furious 7 blew up on the web after Paul Walker's death during filming... I don't know if that's different but I would say it's something... Facebook. Twitter. Videos came out with stories and pictures."

Nikki: "I would say a really popular one though is kids and their parents making videos of them singing frozen songs in the car."

Max: "The yeet meme."

Matt: "The increased use o temporary communications apps, ie snapchat and apps that promise to delete histories. Or the phrase that _____ tho. i.e. I'm trying to lose weight but that ice cream tho. Also, high profile hacking."

Several of my students also mentioned the Emma Watson's speech.

I'm still waiting to hear back from people, though one thing that strikes me in just reviewing the answers I've gotten so far, as well as in contemplation of our in-class activity from last week is how much the idea of cultural relevance complicates the issue. When our group was discussing the Ice Bucket Challenge the weakest aspect of our argument seemed to me like larger societal impact that the Ice Bucket Challenge had as compared to something like #yesallwomen, which seems to me to have enormous societal impact. But then I had to step back and question my own values in regards to that assessment. Because feminist issues are something I'm deeply invested in and very passionate/frustrated about on a day-to-day basis, #yesallwomen and similar topics seem of extreme cultural importance to me, while the Ice Bucket Challenge felt less impactful to me. Then I had to question, however, how differently I might feel if I were personally involved in fundraising, or if I or someone close to me had Lou Gherig's disease. I suppose the point is being able to justify that it HAS larger cultural importance/implications, not justify/identify which of them has the *greatest* cultural relevance, as that is something incredibly subjective?

Edited by Liz Leavitt on Nov 10, 2014 at 10:17pm

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